

MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

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BAUCAU CRASH – FOURTH UPDATE

'BLACK BOX' RECOVERED

The flight data recorder (commonly known as the 'black box') and technical data recorders of the aircraft that crashed in Baucau on Friday afternoon have been recovered by the Australian investigation team providing technical assistance to the Timorese Government Commission of Inquiry.

The recorders were recovered yesterday and are now under police custody in Baucau. Russia has reportedly offered to assist with the analysis of the data as they have the specialist software required to read the data.

In the meantime, a delegation from Laos PDR [People's Democratic Republic] arrived in Dili this morning. The 5-men delegation consists of the Director of the National Rescue Coordination Centre and Safety Bureau, the Director of Euro-Asia Aviation, the company that operated the aircraft, and three aviation specialists. They were briefed on arrival by the Government Commission of Inquiry.

A 3-member Russian delegation consisting of two representatives from the State Aviation Commission and one from the Aircraft Design Bureau is scheduled to arrive in Dili on Friday.

Both delegations will assist the Government Commission of Inquiry headed by the Minister for Transport, Communications and Public Works, Ovidio Amaral.

The remains of the six Russian crew who were killed in the crash are at the UN Military Hospital in Dili and an autopsy is being carried out.

The Russian IL-76 aircraft crashed in an open field while attempting to land at Baucau airport. The aircraft made three attempts to land amid conditions of low clouds and dense fog. The crash, about 2km short of the western end of the runway, occurred during the third attempt at landing.

The aircraft, operated by Euro Asia Aviation (an air cargo company based in the Laotian capital), was transporting app. 50 tonnes of equipment for the Portuguese/Timorese joint company Timor Telecom from Macao in China to Baucau. The equipment was to be used for the building of the Timorese telecommunications network.

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